rates, to go into the market and under-There is little or no room for doubt as to the evil effect of this system upon the interests of free labor. It not only tends to pauperiz honest labor, but it is, in a great measure responsible for the over-crowded condition of our penal institutions. This may be a surprise to those who have never given this important question any study, still the indisputable fact stares us plainly in the face. Crime increases in proportion at a class or a people are pauperized. Therefore, the time of any law-making body can be employed in no more profitable manner than that of protecting the industrial classes againgt any system which tends to force them into a state of pauperism. This fact received at the hands of congress, in the passage of a law known as the "Protective Tariff Law." unqualified recognition. This enactment by Congress, it is well known, was for the purpose of protecting our industrial classes against the unfair competition of cheap pauper labor abroad. Now, then, if it was the duty of our National Legislature to adopt measures against the pau perization of the producing classes of our country through foreign influences, it seems to us that it is clearly the duty of the State to shield and protect its laboring people against the unfair competition and pauperizing tendency of cheap con yiet labor, particularly since the State it self is dire tly responsible for this state of affairs. The mechanics of our state for the ras: 'hirty five yeers h ve om plained bitterly again t the em 'by len' of the contract system by the State For thirty-five years they have knocked at the doors of the Legis'ature, and in a suppl cating manner begged our lawmakers to give this all-important question some little attention, but until now without success. Whether indifference toward the interests of our laboring people, or sympathy for the prison contract-ors, is the cause of this delayed action, we are unable to state. Certain it is, however, that the contract system has been permitted to gnaw at the vitals of our mechanical interests until the cry now goes forth from one end of the State to the other for its abolition, and the adoption of a system whereby the profits of convict labor shall accrue to the State instead of the prison contractor.

CONTRACT LAB R-ITS EFFECT UPON THE REFORMATION OF PRISONERS.

In moral point of view, we find that the contract system can never be made an agency of reformation. On the contrary, we regard it as an insurmountable barrier to the reformation of the unfortunates incarcerate I within the prison walls, and who are compelled to live under its demoralizing influences. The best evidence that can be obtained proves conclusively that the prisoners under the contract system, in a majority of cases, are only hardeded instead of reformed. We need but call your attention to the Cincinnati Work-house in contrast with the Cleveland Work-house The Cincinnati Work-house is conducted under the contract system, and the Cleveland Work-house is managed by the officers of the prison without the intervention of prison contr ctors. To show that the contract system has a demoralizing influence apon the prisoners, your attention is especially called to the a'armingly large per cent, of recommittals to the Cincinnati Work-house under the contract system which is seventyfive in every one hundred. Here, then, is grave cause for a arm, and the existence of a state of affairs which calls loudly for speedy action at your hands. For fear that your Committee may be thought as reflecting upon the ability and efficiency of the Superintendent, Mr. James Morgan, and other officers of that prison we hereby take the opportunity to declaim any such intention. We do say, however, that whatever the abilities of Mr. Morgan, or those of other men may be, as prison managers, in the opinion of your Committee they cannot make a penal institution a successful reformatory the prisoners out of the hands of prison authorities and places them in the hands of prison contractors. In the testimony taken from prison contractors re have failed to adduce any evidence to prove that these men have given the subject of reforming the prisoners any thought whatever. The testimony of Mr. Perin, of the firm of Perin, Gaff & Co., is a fair sample how little is thought of reformation in connection with our penal institutions. Mr. Perin, in his testimons was honest and straightforward. He stated, frankly, that he gave the question of reformation little or no concern and that he contracted for the labor of the prisoners at the Cincinnati Work house merely for p reonal gain. The reformation of prisoners under the contract system, seems to be lost sight of; especially is this the case in the Ohio penitentiary. Of all the witnesses examined who were in any way connected with this prison, not one claimed that the institution was reformatory in character, but that it was a mere place for the punshment of men convicted for committing

offenses against the law. Mr. Alfred Thomas, a contractor, in his testimony said; "I doubt whether it (the Penitemiary) really exercises a reformatory influence upon the character of the men there."

Mr. Romeo Gregg, another contractor in the Ohio Penilentiary, in reply to the question, 'llave you given the subject of reformation of prisoners any study?" said, "None in particular." He also stated that he took the contract to make what he could out of it.

Hon. Harvey Rice, President of the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Work-house, in his testimony, treated the question of prison management in an exhaustive, clear and concise manner. As Mr. R ce has given this important question a life-long study, we call your especial attention to the testimony given by him. It will be observed that he is clearly of the opinion that the reformation of prisoners can not be accomplished under the contract system, and that it is absolutely impossible to enforce proper discipline among the p isoners. industries of the prison of which Mr. Rice is an officer, is managed directly by institution, without the intervention of any prison contractors. The result is that the percentage of recommittals in the Cleveland Work house is about twenty to every one hundred, while that of the Cincinnati Work-house is seventyfive to every one hundred. The latter, as has been stated, is conducted under the contract system, and the former is not. So it will be seen that, in a reformatory point of view, there is 55 per cent. in favor of the system under which the Cleveland Work-house is conducted.

Your Committee would state, also, that while there is an intense feeling of op-position toward the Ohio Penitentiary and Cincinnati Work-house among mechanics and manufacturers, because, as they claim, of the rulnous competition to which they subject them, there is little or no complaint against the Cleveland Work-house. There is no doubt in the minds of your Committee as to which

very conclusive upon the subject of contract convict labor. He is decidedly of the opinion that this system is not refermatory in character, and that it tends to harden the prisoners, rather than otherwise. Mr. Byers has, for many years, applied himself closely to the study of the question of reformation in connec tion with our penal and reformatory in-stitutions, and his testimony certainly deserves very careful consideration at your hands. It will be seen from his your hands. testimony, that prisoners are very often punished because they are unable to perform the amount of work required by the contractor. In proof of this, we give the following quotation from his testimony: "Within the past year I stood at the door of a dark cell, and saw a colored man stand ng with his wrists chained to the wall so that he could not move and heard him plead with the chaplain, who was with me, for God's sake to have him released; that he had done his best; that he could not do another thing more han he had done. And his offense as I learned from the chaplain at the time, was that he had not fulfilled his day's

This, we learn, is only one of the many samples of brutal punishment inflicted ostensibly in the interests of the con-

We also beg leave to call your atten-

mo der emp oyed in the hol w-ward Pan tento y From his e imony, given in the prosence of the War en it appears that during the first fifteen months of his confinement he was junished out once, and, as he admits, for a violation of one of the rules of the prison-that of talking to a prisoner. There was no com-plaint on account of his work until the contractor changed the pattern for him to work with, when it became impossible for him to make the number of pieces required by the schedule, notwiths and ing he strove even harder than befo.e to perform the required amount of work The reason of this failure to perform the amount of work required by the contractor, it is claimed, and not wi hout pluasibility, was that the pattern had been made so thin that the metal would congeal before it surrounded the mould. For this the prisoner was subjected to the most inhuman treatment, which covered a period of three months, when the pattern was changed, af er which the prisoner performed his task in a satisfactory manner. The punishment meted out to him during the period referred to was confinement in a dark, dismal, contracted dungeon, with no ventilation and no stmosphere, except that which he breathed over and over again, without a mouthful to eat, and compelled to remain during the entire night, when in the morning he was taken out to a tank of cold water, divested of all his clothing. his feet shackled and arms pinioned behind him. This completed, two stalwart men plunged him into the water, and held him under until nearly sufficated, when he was taken out and permitted to dre s, and then comp lled to go to his work, with but a crust of bread, weak and exhausted from starvation and punishment. If he then again failed to perform the amount of work required by the contractor, he was subjected to a repetition of the punishment described This, we submit, is a burning shame, and a reproach to the enlightened spirit of the age, and, if permitted to continue without at least an effort toward reform upon our part, will be a standing disgrace to the fair name of Ohio.

Much of this punishment is attributed directly to the contract system and tends by no means to reform the prisoner. This, in the opinion of your Committee, is one of the reasons why so few of the many prisoners confined in our Penitentiaries are made any better by their confinement. The principal reason, however assigned for the inapelith on the part of the officers of penal institutions whose industries are managed by outside parties, to reform the prisoners, is the sis tem of contract labor. Under this system the prisoner is humiliated and disgraced: he is so das it were into slavery. on the block,un er the auctioneer's hammer, the State bing the auctioneer, and the contractor the purchaser. We find that many of the unfortunates incarcerated in our Penitentiary were not really bad at heart, and, when sentenced to iminstitution under any system which takes | p isonment at hard labor, firmly resolved that at the expiration of their sentence they would obey the law and become good citizens; but when disgraced to the evel, aye, even beneath that of a slave, they lose whatever manhood they pos sess, and resign themselves to a life of hopeless degredation. This is especially the case with the more intelligent por tion of the prisoners. This we find by close observation and diligent inquiry

among the prisoners themselves. In view of the evidence adduced moor the question of reformation in connec tion with our penal institutions, your Committee is unequivocally and unani monely of the opinion that the reformation of prisoners can not be successfully accomplished, indeed, if it can be ac complished at all, under the contract sys-

Your Committee is also of the opinion that no institu ion can be made a reform atory agency where punishment is the primary and leading object. The treat ment which aims only to punish for the sake of punishing is dangerous alike to society and the criminal. All sistory on this subject proves conclusively that it never improves he criminal, but often nakes him worse. When we shut a criminal out from society we do so in no spirit of revenge, nor with a view of wrecking vergence upon him. He.c. the criminal, when he finds that much of the bodily punishment if ficted upon him results from a spirit of revenge en ge dered in the breast of some contractor's overseer, whose judgment in the matter of what constitutes a fair task is too often accepted by our prison officials and the unfortunate culprit subjected to the most inhuman and degrading punishment, the finer feelings of his nature became calloused, and every hope of his reformation is crushed out of him, and from that moment he becomes los to so-This state of affairs would not, as a matter of course, exist under a system whereby the industries of a prison were managed by the State.

PROFITS OF PRISON CONTRACTORS. Upon the question of "r rofits of prison contractors, and their advantages over other manufacturers," your Committee is enabled to report only upon the evidence adduced from manufacturers other than prison contractors. Prison con. greatest necessity. The best guide in tractors in the Penitentiary claim that they are maling no profit out of their contracts. This portion of the testimony taken, in our opinion, is susceptible of very grave doubt. However, we direc your attention to the evidence given, int order that you may form your own conclusions. We wish, however, to call the ignorant, the rude, and base. The your attention to the portion of the teetimony of Jesse W. Dann, where he to age, state of mind, former life, degree speaks of other prison contractors as of guilt and crime committed. competitors, in which he says:"We have to compete with them, too, but they are not our worst competitors by any means. At Ashtabula, O., Toledo, O., and Fort Wayne, Ind., are our worst competitors, and w. keep track of them continually." If this is the case, we cannot account for classed; the third class is composed of

when other manufacturers are paying so much more for labor than they pay. All the testimony of prison contractors is of er do they undersell employers of free labor. The Warden of the Penitentiary also testifies to the effect that they did not undersell other manufacturers. Now, it seems to us that the statements of the contractors-first, that they are making no profit and, second, that they do not undersell other manufacturers—stand in strange contrast to each other, particularly when we consider the testimony of so many of our large manufacturers, who

cry out against the ruinous competition to which prison contr clorssubject them. As to the advantages of these men over other manufacturers, your Committee is fully convinced that no manufacturers, who is not an employer of prison labor, can carry on his business in competition with p ison contractors, at any profit to himself, and pay his employes fair, living wages.

The advantages prison contractors have over other manuf-cturers are: 1. They get their labor at a much less rate; in many instances they pay not more than one fourth as much in the manufacture of certain kinds of goods as tion to a similar case of nunishment upther manufac overs pay. Particularly on a prisoner named Charles Gody, a s this the case in the manufan; ure of

> 2. They hav no capital invested in al estate upon which their shops are ocated. 3. They pay no insurance on their

ollow-ware.

shops 4. They pay no rent; neither do they pay any taxes on this property. The State assumes the entire expense, this particular alone they have a decided advantage over other manufacturers, even if they paid the same prices for free

We therefore think it unjust that the State should continue a system of labor in our penal institutions which gives any portion of its citizens undue advantage over another, and such a large and influential portion of our citizens, men who have contributed so much to our State rank in importance third in the Union. It is the duty of the State to protect and foster its manufacturing interests, and not continue a system which, in the cpinion of your Committee, has done much to retard the growth and progress of its most vital interest.

CAN THE CONTRACT SYSTEM BE ABANDONED WITH PROFIT TO THE STATE?

There is no doubt in the minds of your Committee but that the system of letting out the labor of convicts to contractors might profitably be abandoned, and a system substituted under which the industries of the Penitentiary shall be managed by the State. Our own ex perience upon this question, and the experience of eminent prison managers, both in this country and in Europe, we think, justifies us in making this recommendation.

My. Hubbell, a former Warden at the State Prison at Sing Sing, New York, testified under oath, before the Prison Association, that a competent head could manage the industries of a prison much more to the advantage of the State and the convicts, than is possible under the contract system. David L. Seymou, also former Warden of Sing Sing, a man of large business experience, and a successfu. prison manager, gave it as his opinion that the State could better manage a prison without the intervention of A bany Penitentiary, said that, in a figancial point of view the management of the industries by a competent Warden would be most successful. He also that while he was Warden in the Connecticut State Prison, the industries had been managed part of the time by himself, and part of the time through contractors, and that his management of them had been financially the greatest

Mr. Brockway, who was Superintendent of the Detroit House of Correctionan institution known as a short-term prison-also expressed the same opinion-The institution was, at that time, and is now, managed by its Superintendent. It is not only self-sustaining, but pays a handsome revenue to the city annually

We might cite many other prominent prison managers who agree that the industries of a prison can be best managed by its head. For example, Mr. Rice of Maine, Mr. Cordier of Wisconsin, Mr. Harvey Rice of Cleveland, and Mr. Patterson, Superintendent of the Cleveland Work House, all of whom are decidedly of the opinion that the contract system s, by no means, a system under which any penal institution should be managed by the Warden or other officer at the nead of the institution.

In order to successfully establish a sys em, suc's as we have indicated, the first step necessary is to place these institutions, for all time to come, beyond the reach and influence of all partisan, sectarian and political influence whatso-This once a complished, the next ever. step necessary is the appointment of thoroughly competent and trustworthy managers, who shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall be removed not without cause; and, even then, not until after due trial. Prace in the hands of the manager full power to appoint his assistants, and hold him responsible for the proper and efficient management of the institution. This once accomplisted, there is, in the opinon of your Committee, no room for doubt as to the ultimate financial success of the institution.

MULTIPLICATION OF TRADES.

We would further recommend that, in order to avoid interference with honest industry, multiplication of the various mechanical trades under the manage ment here indicated. This would obviate any undue interference with any particular branch of industry, and it would distribute the burden of convict labor upon all mechanical callings more equally than is now the case.

CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS.

The next and most vital step toward the reformation of the prisoners is classification. We deem this question of such great importance that we consider an elaborate treatment of it as being of the our recommendation as to the best method is the experience of other and older countries than ours.

In Austria, youthful criminals are separated as much as possible from old and hardened offenders. Educated prisoners are not, if it can be avoided, placed with further alm is to classify them according

In Belgium, the lowest class of prison ers comprises those whose antecedents are the most unfavorable, and whose con uct is bad; the middle class comprises those whose antecedents, without being decidedly unfavorable, and their couduct absolutely bad, are subjected to of the two systems are preferable, and which shall be adopted by the State.

The testimony of A G Byers is also the statement that prison contractors are prisoners who, by their good conduct in

making no profit out of their business, the Peuitentiary, have claim to a special distinction. T e first class is called the Panishment D vision;" he second, the 'Probation Division;" the third, "Rec-impense Division." The prisoners of the the same nature as that of Mr. Dann, to Punishment Division are subject to the the effect that they make no profit; neith- most painful labors, and suffir various privations, especially that of visits from and correspondence with the outside, The passage from one division into another is determined by the Alministrative Commission, on the proposal of the Prison Directors. To this end the records of conduct and punishment are consulted.

In Bavaria the system of classification exists to some extent only. The goverpors of the prisons must keep prisoners of average good conduct from those who show little disposition toward inprovement, and whose example would exert a hurtful influence on others. In Prussia classification is carried little beyond a separata n of the older from the younger criminals; but even this, it

is held, is productive of good results and in a reformatory point of view, is decidedly preferable to our own, which simbrings or congregates together a miscellaneous admix ure of all classes an I grades of criminals. Classification of prisoners in Italy

made according to the crime committed. There are four divisions, and each of these four divisions is subdivided into three categories, distinguished by marks on their dress, according to their term of sentence.

Classification of prisoners in Norway has received considerable attention at the hands of the Government. In disand dormitories great care is exercised to keep the less corrupt from the morphardened and deprayed criminals. In the Penitentiary there exists a system of progressive classification, based or the progressive classification, based or the progressive classification. zeal and merits of the prisoners.

Classification of prisoners in England differs somewhat from that of other countries. The penal servitude is di vided into three stages. The first stage is passed at Pintonville or Millbank, and lasts nine months in all cases. During that period the prisoner passes his whole time, except the period allotted to prayer and exercise, alone in his cell, working at some emplyment of an industrial or remunerative character. The second stage is passed in a prison in which he sleeps and has his meals in a separate cell, but works in association, under close supervision. The third stage is that during which he is releas ed conditionally, from prison, when he is kept under supervision of the police, and made liable for any infraction of the condition of his release.

The "Crofton Convict Prison System, as it is commonly known, is, in the opin-ion of your Committee, preferable to that of any other system yet devised. combines both penalty and reformation. The system consists of four stages. The first stage is that of a cellular imprison-ment. Its duration varies according to the conduct of the prisoner, generally from eight to nine months. During this period of imprisonment, the prisoner passes through a stage of intense penal servitude. The work required of him is rude and uninteresting, and his food is very limited and coarse. During this initial stage the prisoner is made thoroughly acquainted with the whole system, and the advantages that will accrue to him in his progress to ward liberty, if he takes kindly to it, and is uniformly well behaved, and is prompt and attentive to all his duries.

The second stage is passed in a congregated prison, where the prisoners are associated during the hours of labor with prison rs of their class, and at night are separated. D.ring this stage of his concontractors. General Pillsbury of the finement the prisoner receives much milder treatment, and he himself can improve his condition more or less rapidly, according to his conduct. As a re ward for good behavior he receives each month a cartain number of marks, which determine his advancement from one class to another. The essential principle of tuis stage is that of progressive classification, based on good conduct and merit. There are four classes; each class marks a change in the situation of the prisoner, and mitigates his punishment. After passing through the first three classes, e is no longer required to wear the prison garb; he is employed on special work; he is permitted to enjoy many privileges, and it may be said that he approaches closely to a state of liberty. This stage is so arranged and adjusted as to be an effective trial of the prisoner and a test to the genuineness of his ref-ormation. If he adheres to his good 1eslution, and maintains his good conduct, he graduates from one class to another, and if he holds out to the end, he receives a ticket of license and becomes conditionally free. On the other hand, if he fails to conduct himself in a well-behaved manner, he is remanded to the stage, which in the opinion of the managers, his conduct deserves, where he is again compelled to work his way up by the same careful and painstaking process as before. It will be observed, how-ever, that the beneficial results obtained under this system can not be obtained inder the system employed in our Penitentiary, that of selling the labor of selling the labor of prisoners to contractors, and it is further evidence that our present system can not be abandoned

QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS.

In order to conduct our peral instru tions successfully, a reform is absolutely indispensable in the appointment of our prison managers. Your Committee knows of no country in the world where prison managers, and prison officers generally, are appointed for past party services, or where the appointment of prison officials is regarded as a party patronage. In Belgium, the manager of a prison

must be thoroughly acquainted with everything pertaining to moral, disciplinary, economic and industrial administration. Training schools for pri on officers are in operation there. This has been found very beneficial, notably so in the Penitentiary of Louvain. The directors are recruited from the personnel of the administration, and before receiving their appointment they must pres a special and thorough examination.

Prison officers in Denmark are appointed partly by the Government and partly by the Prison Inspector. Their appointment and continuation in office are entirely independent of political and all other considerations not based direct ly upon their qualifications and effi-

In Bavaria, the qualifications of a Prison Director must be a full knowledge of philosophy and jurisprudence, and pass a rigid examination.

Prison officials in Saxony are appointed by the Ministry of the Interior. They are, at first, employed on trial, and, if found incompetent, are dismiss litical influence does not enter into consideration. The higher officers are employed in one of the Penitentiaries, where they go through a regular, prac-ticel and thorough training before their definite appointment

In Switzerland, the appointment of officers charged with the treatment of prisoners is a matter of very great im-portance, for the well understood reason that badly managed prisons, instead of being dispensaries for the cure of moral disease, become, rather, numeries for the

hardening of climinals. (Concluded next week,)

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